



The Coast Guard *RESERVIST*

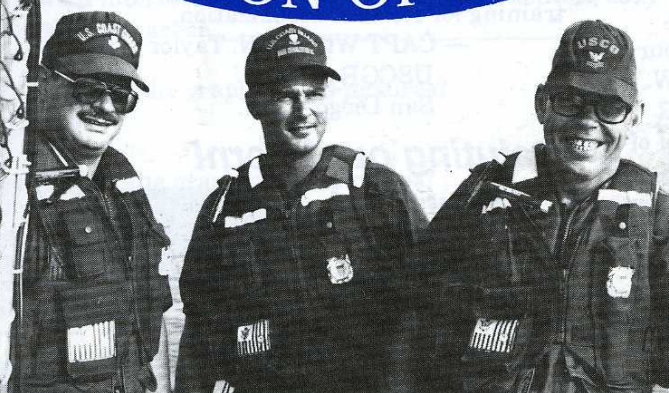
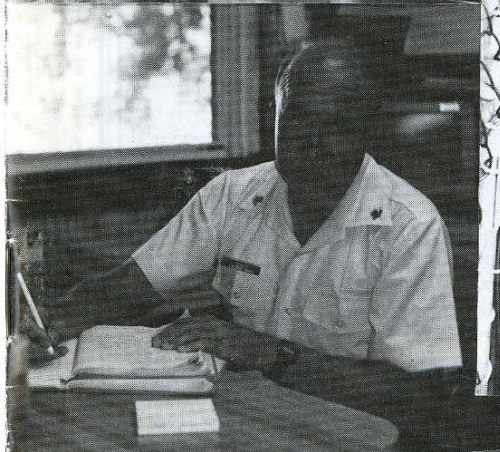
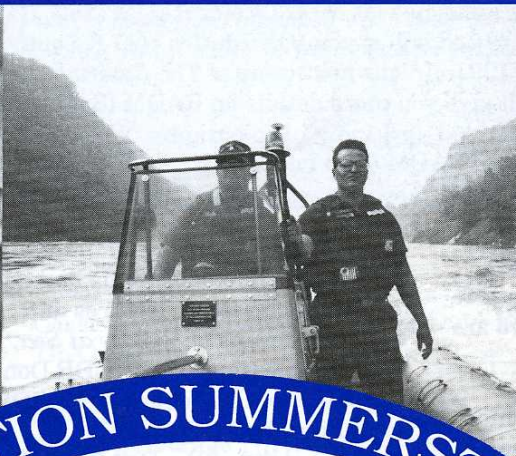


September / October 1991

Serving the Reserve Community

Volume XXXVIII, No. 6

Our 50th Year



RADM (Sel) John W. Lockwood named new Chief, Office of Readiness & Reserve



RADM (Sel) Lockwood

As *The Reservist* went to press, RADM (Sel) John W. Lockwood was named the new Chief, Office of Readiness & Reserve. RADM (Sel) Lockwood takes the reigns from RADM John N. Faigle, now at MLC LANT. RADM (Sel) Lockwood will assume the duties of G-R Sept. 16, 1991. In our next issue of *The Reservist*, we'll give you more details on RADM (Sel) Lockwood, including his biography. Welcome aboard RADM (Sel) Lockwood!

Editor's Turn...Survey!



In order for us to see what kind of a job we are doing here at *The Reservist*, we've developed a readership survey questionnaire.

Please take a few moments to look at these few questions on pages three and four and answer as you deem appropriate.

For your convenience, the postage and return address have been affixed. Survey results will be published in a future issue. Once those results are analyzed, we hope to bring you an improved product. Thanks again for helping us serve you better.



Your Turn...

CAPT's Letter "hit home"

In reading the July / August edition of *The Reservist*, the "Your Turn" letter by CAPT Norbert W. Muench hit home. The late CDR George E. MacGarvey was Chief of Reserve of the 1st District during the early 1960's. During that time, I was a lieutenant and newly appointed as "Operations Officer" of the Providence, R.I., ORTUPS unit. Some ask me what I did as such. What unit had one of those at that time? Primarily, it was to provide realistic training, including the beginning of augmentation in our area. We continued the effort when I was appointed as Executive Officer of that unit and then at the newly created Fall River ORTUPS unit.

In spite of the prohibition against augmentation in *The Coast Guard*

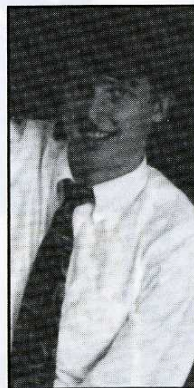
Reserve Administrative Manual (CG-296) at the time, most of us had had enough of classroom lectures and watching reruns of *Victory at Sea*. With the blessings of the CDR Donald Ver Wiebe of Providence and LCDR John Finn (both deceased, unfortunately) of the Fall River unit, we got a go ahead from CDR MacGarvey to work with Station Castle Hill on weekends and two week ACUD augmentation. CWO4 Bill Muessel, USCG (Ret.), Commanding Officer of the station, was the key to this embryonic effort. Bill was willing to put his people and equipment at risk in order to help us provide effective and realistic training for the Reserve.

Many of us learned an important lesson from all this: People in leadership positions need to be gutsy and imaginative in providing effective training for Reserve mobilization.

— CAPT William N. Taylor
USCGR (Ret.)
San Diego, Calif.

Saluting our intern!

The Reservist has been fortunate to have William B. Porter as a student intern this summer. He has been a tremendous help to us and we extend our best wishes to him in his final year at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va. He secured the internship through the Headquarters Civilian Personnel Branch (G-CAS-5).



The Coast Guard **RESERVIST**

is published by the Commandant of the USCG.

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On the cover

It's been a busy season of service for Operation Summerstock reservists at CG stations on the Great Lakes. The first of a two-part series begins on Page 5. Photos by LT N. Hurley, G-RST-1, and PA2 E. Kruska, G-RS-1. Photo layout by Lisa M. Kruska. Summerstock logo by W.B. Porter.

The Coast Guard Reservist

Readership Survey Questionnaire

Editor's Note: In the March 1990 issue, we said The Reservist was your magazine and we wanted to hear from you. We have heard from some of you, but there are many more of you that we have not heard from. Well, here's your chance to let us know how we're doing and how we can better serve you in the coming year. Please fill out the following survey (front and back), cut along the dotted line, fold and staple (or tape), and mail it back to us. The mailing address and postage are already on the bottom of the next page. If there is more than one Reservist reader in your household, you may make copies of this survey. Please respond by Oct. 15, 1991. Results will be published in a future issue.

- (1) How long have you been reading *The Reservist* (Years / Issues) (It has been published since November 1953). _____
- (2) How many people read your copy of *The Reservist* (approximately)? _____
- (3) Please check the four sections of *The Reservist* you enjoy most:
- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> View from the Bridge | <input type="checkbox"/> Cover Story | <input type="checkbox"/> Officers Call |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TEMAC Chart | <input type="checkbox"/> Coast to Coast Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> Fit for Duty-Fit for Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Call to Quarters | <input type="checkbox"/> Tip O the Hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
- (4) In general, how do you find the content of the articles?
- ☐ Very Interesting ☐ Somewhat Interesting ☐ Average ☐ Not Interesting
- (5) If you had a choice, what types of articles / information would you want to see more of?
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Articles | <input type="checkbox"/> District News | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Interest Stories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphics / Pictures | <input type="checkbox"/> Headquarters News | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Please specify _____ |
- (6) Do you feel "your" operational mission area of the Coast Guard gets enough coverage?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Enough coverage What is your operational mission area? _____
- (7) How do you feel about the "View from the Bridge?"
- ☐ Important ☐ Somewhat Important ☐ Not Important ☐ No Opinion
- (8) Do you think *The Reservist* is slanted more toward officers, enlisted, or is it evenly distributed?
- ☐ Officer ☐ Enlisted ☐ Evenly distributed
- (9) Would you be interested in a column that debated the pros and cons of Coast Guard and Reserve-related issues of wide interest? (e.g. pay problems, direct deposit, etc.)
- ☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes, what subject areas _____
- (10) Are you satisfied with the quantity of the graphics and pictures?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
- (11) Are you satisfied with the content of the graphics and pictures?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
- (12) Are you satisfied with the quality of the graphics and pictures?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
- (13) Do you like the format of the front covers?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Recommended changes _____
- (14) Do you have any problem with your copy of *The Reservist* reaching you?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes, please explain _____
- (15) Are you generally satisfied with *The Reservist*?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No If no, why not? _____
- (16) Have you contributed articles, pictures, etc. to *The Reservist*?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No If no, why not? _____

(17) Are you in the Coast Guard? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, are you ☐ Active ☐ Reserve ☐ Retired ☐ Other _____

(A) How long have you been in the Coast Guard? _____

(B) What is your rank / rate? _____

(C) If a Coast Guard Reservist, what is your full-time occupation? _____

If no, what is your occupation? _____ Why do you read *The Reservist*? _____

(18) Where do you live? State _____ CG District (if known) _____

(19) Are you male or female? ☐ Male ☐ Female

(20) How old are you? ☐ 18-25 ☐ 26-35 ☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-55 ☐ 56-65 ☐ Over 65

Additional Comments:

Please fold your survey in half along dotted line below to show return address and staple along the edge. Thank you for taking the time to answer this survey and sending it back to us by Oct. 15, 1991. Results will be published in a future issue.

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Operation Summerstock

It's definitely not just a job, it's an adventure on the Great Lakes

Story by PA2 E.J. Kruska. Photos by LT Neil Hurley, G-RST-1, and PA2 E.J. Kruska, G-RS-1

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series on the 9th District's Operation Summerstock program.

Approximately 60 Coast Guard Reservists helped man seven Coast Guard stations on the Great Lakes this summer. This initial article takes us to the eastern end of the Great Lakes, to Coast Guard Station Niagara, N.Y., on Lake Ontario. Eight Coast Guard Reservists spent their summer helping out the active duty Coast Guardsmen stationed there. Later this fall, we'll take you to the western end of the Great Lakes to Coast Guard Station Plum Island on Washington Island, Wis. From one end of the Great Lakes to the other, Summerstock Coast Guard Reservists are making a difference. Here is a slice of their story.

YOUNGSTOWN, N.Y. — When Coast Guard Reservist PS2 Ed Hyatt reported to Coast Guard Station Niagara this past May, the active duty station crew was glad to see him...and they put him right to work.

"Within a half-hour of being here, I was out on a boat helping somebody that had broken down," said PS2 Hyatt.

Hyatt, 47, of RU MSO Los Angeles / Long Beach, and an ex-Santa Barbara, Calif. policeman, has spent 18 years in the Coast Guard Reserve. However, this was his first season serving in a program called Operation Summerstock.

It may be Hyatt's first summer, but Operation Summerstock certainly isn't new. Stations Plum Island, Wis., Manistee, Mich., and Harbor Beach, Mich., are in their 19th seasons as Reserve-operated stations. Among those participating as Reserve augmented stations are: Niagara, N.Y., 11 years; Belle Isle, Mich., eight years; Frankfort, Mich., three years; while Alexandria Bay, N.Y., is in its inaugural season.

The objective in staffing these stations with reservists is to provide the 9th District a means of meeting the seasonal SAR demand without additional investment of regular billets. Duty performed in support of Operation Summerstock is TEMAC

ranging from 60-120 days. Of the eight reservists performing Summerstock at Station Niagara, four are BMs, two are MKs, one is a PS and one is an SS.

Most Summerstockers receive base pay, travel and clothing allowances only. Berthing (two to a room usually) and meals are provided. Summerstockers also receive liberty and two and one-half days earned leave per month.

It beats flippin' burgers

Chief Tom Ducette, Officer-In-Charge at Station Niagara, says that Summerstock is a great program for reservists. "There is no way reservists are going to get the experience in small boat operations working two weeks a year at a small boat station that they can get working a summer of operations," said Ducette.

BM3 Tim Nosel is in his fourth consecutive year as a Summerstock reservist. He agrees with Chief Ducette's assessment of the Summerstock program.

"As far as the Summerstock program goes, if you're someone in college, it's probably the best deal around," said Nosel. "I don't think you can find a better summer job. It's not totally stress free; there are a lot of duties. You're busy, especially the first month that you come here,

Continued on next page



Summerstock reservists appear to fit right in at Coast Guard Station Niagara in Youngstown, N.Y. In fact, it's hard to tell the difference unless they're pointed out. Front row in tropes, left to right: Summerstockers BM1 Brian Wells and PS2 Ed Hyatt, regular SN Tom Ottenwaelder. In working blues, left to right: Summerstockers BM3 John Schempf and MK2 Roger Nash, regulars MK3 Dan McCord and SA Brian Bernard, Summerstockers BM3 Tim Nosel and BM2 Guy Stieglitz, regulars BM3 Jeff Holden and FA Rick Vanbuskirk, Summerstocker MK2 Burlen Roy Hoover and reservist PS3 Kevin Murphy, performing two weeks ADT.

Operation Summerstock: A Season of Service

but it beats flippin' burgers. Also, if you're a reservist and you've never been on full-time active duty before, it's going to be your only chance to become a qualified coxswain or a fully qualified crew member. It's almost impossible to do it on your weekend drills."

Nosel's responsibilities are that of boat maintenance along with BM1 Brian Wells, also a Summerstocker. Nosel is also station historian and functions as the station's public affairs specialist. He has coordinated several ceremonies with the different yacht and boat clubs as well as parades in the area this summer.

"When you do your work, you're here [at the station] for

two days — and you work," continued Nosel. "It's nice duty but it's not cushy. I work two 24-hour days and then I'm off two 24-hour days. I'm also one of the duty boat coxswains and that in itself is a very heavy responsibility, I feel. You have to take it seriously. You have to present yourself to the crew as a knowledgeable person about the boat. You have to know what you're doing because you can't lose their faith when you're out there. Also, as a coxswain, you're also responsible for training the other crewmen, especially the new crewmen who have never seen a 44. That's very important itself."

Nosel says he has no regrets about his time at Station Niagara. He is a graduate student in history at Miami of Ohio University in Oxford, Ohio. When not on duty at Station Niagara, he conducts tours at the adjacent Old Fort Niagara. He also works on his Master's thesis in his "spare" time.

"I like it here," said Nosel. "I'm probably going to do this next year after I finish my Masters," said Nosel. "So, I'll do it again and that will make five years. I think the record here at Niagara is six years."

Civilian skills bring diversity

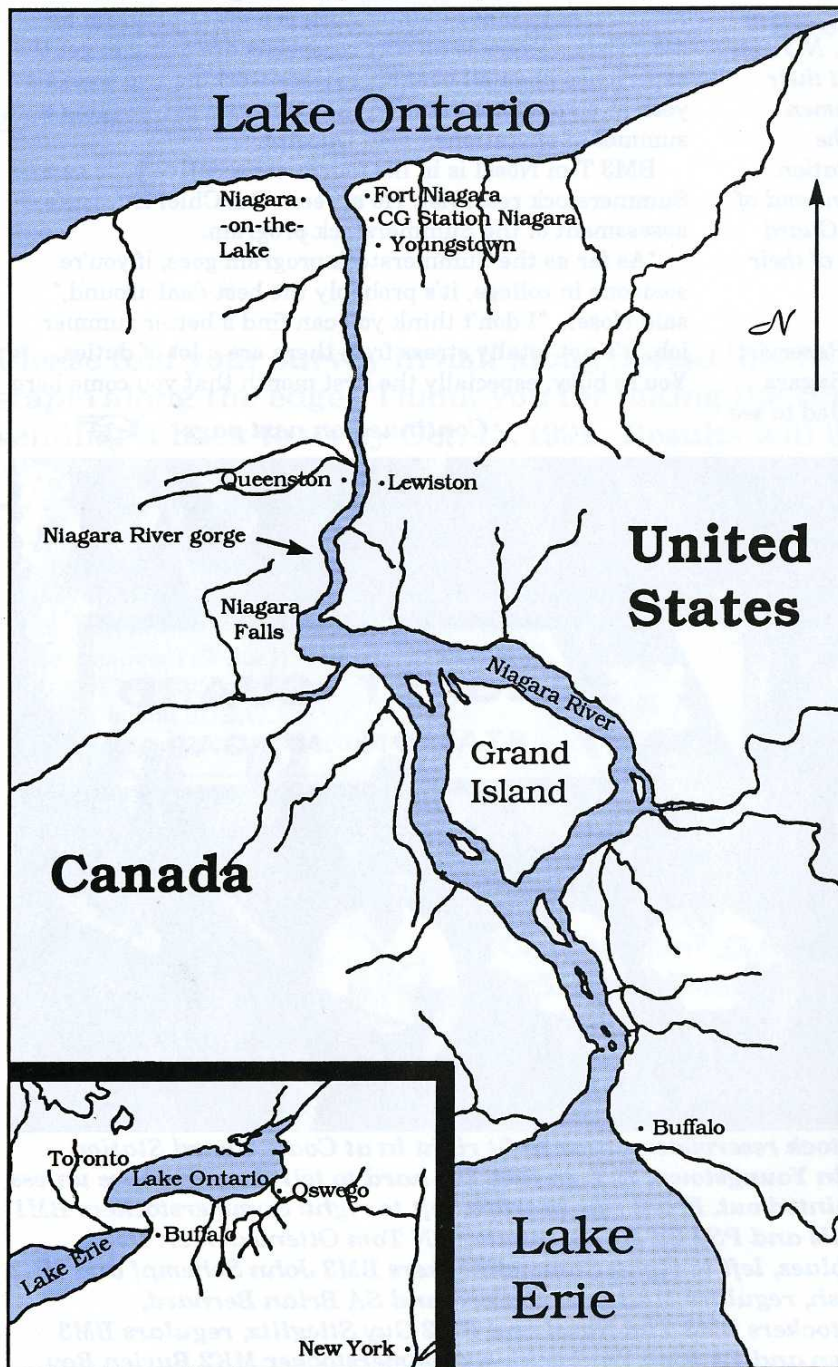
Chief Ducette says the reservists' civilian skills bring diversity to the station. Niagara's Summerstockers include a chiropractor - respiratory therapist, former policeman, car dealer, diesel mechanic, graduate and undergraduate students, and a fence building contractor. The age range is 24-49, placing the average age at 34.8 years. More than half are married.

"BM1 Wells, he's got 10 years [of experience] as a respiratory therapist," said Ducette. "He's a member of Ashtabula, Ohio's Coldwater Drowning Dive Rescue Team. He's just got a real diversity — a BS in Respiratory Therapy, and a Doctorate in Chiropractic. You don't find BM1's with Doctorates. They don't exist, but I have one here. Now he'll be leaving in a month or two, but the advantages you get from the diversity, the skills are real nice. The additional skills really help us out."

The 40-year-old Wells, a reservist since 1987 who drills at RU Lake Erie, says Summerstock is giving him the experience he wants for possibly making Chief some day.

"It's a real good experience, and I think we're helping them out," said Wells. "I've been here since May 6, and I finish up Sept. 16. I think it's working well [with the regulars]...It's been busy — I've got almost 100 hours underway time already [as of July 18], and I usually average about 140 a year."

Earlier this spring, Chief Ducette was able to interview prospective candidates over the

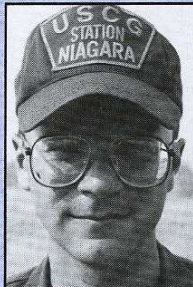


Map by LT Neil Hurley, G-RST-1 and W.B. Porter, G-RS-1

Operation Summerstock: A Season of Service

Summerstock Snapshot

BM3 Tim Nosel



Age: 24
Hometown: Chicago
Civilian Occupation: Graduate student at Miami of Ohio University, Oxford, Ohio

CG Reservist: Since 1986

Unit: Was with RU Great Lakes, now IRR

Thoughts on Summerstock: "If you're someone that's in college, it's probably the best deal around."

phone. The process of pick and choose helped him assemble a diverse group of skilled reservists. Consequently, Ducette says that every Summerstock reservist at the station is someone he would take on full time.

Mutual respect between reservists and regulars BM3 Jeff Holden has been stationed at Niagara for three summers and says this has been the best year for

like a second home."

FA Rick Vanbuskirk, a regular at Station Niagara from Swink, Colo., says he was surprised by the level of training and practical skills of Summerstock reservists.

"I thought they weren't up to speed," said Vanbuskirk. "But the MKs are definitely up to speed. The new faces and new attitudes have been good. And these reservists mix in OK."

Roger Nash, 32, of RU Base Charleston, is one of those MKs who's mixing in just fine at Station Niagara.

"The people I work with...they're great," said Nash. Everyone helps you out. Everyone works together, for being such a short period of time, it's unbelievable. I've seen people broken in on watches in a week or two weeks. People learn so quickly."

With the mutual respect between regular and Reserve being what it is here at Station Niagara, it's no wonder that PS2 Hyatt was out on a boat within a half-hour of arriving from California for a season of Summerstock. Still, Hyatt, whose responsibilities include that of law enforcement and boarding officer, has advice for a reservist looking to participate in Summerstock in the future.

"Don't have any false expectations," said Hyatt. "Come up here ready to work. You're going to get off time, you're going to have duty time, and make the best of both of it. You get the drill points and it's a good job. There's absolutely no doubt about that. We've got nothing to be ashamed of — we're the United States Coast Guard."

Summerstock Snapshot

PS2 Ed Hyatt



Age: 47
Hometown: Ventura, Calif.
Civilian Occupation: Car Business
CG Reservist: Since 1973
Unit: RU LA/LB
Thoughts on

Summerstock: "The area is beautiful...It's a good station, a good crew, the Chief is excellent...we have an excellent cook. I have no complaints."

Summerstock yet. Holden says he thinks the program is working. That's not to say things are perfect, however. The biggest problem Holden and other active duty Coast Guardsmen stationed at Niagara have encountered is before the reservists arrive in the spring or after their departure in the fall.

"The one thing that is bad is that there are only six active duty billets here at the station and I would say 40 percent of our cases happen when our Summerstock personnel are not aboard," said Holden. "When the reservists leave in September, we are still in status until we pull our boats, and we still run a lot of cases when the reservists aren't here."

Still, there is a mutual respect between the regulars and the reservists here.

"I think they have a mutual respect for each other," said BM3 Nosel. "The regulars pretty much respect what you do during the year and you respect what they do during the year. You see it in the boat, especially with someone who keeps coming back. I almost feel like a regular because I'm around here every summer; it's almost

Summerstock Snapshot

MK2 Roger Nash



Age: 32
Hometown: Charleston, SC
Civilian Occupation: Fence building contractor
CG Reservist: Since May '90, served 10

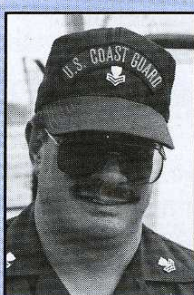
years active duty.

Unit: RU Base Charleston, S.C.

Thoughts on Summerstock: "I enjoy it up here [at Niagara], it's nice. The people I work with, they're great. Everyone helps you out."

Summerstock Snapshot

BM1 Brian Wells



Age: 40
Hometown: Ashtabula, Ohio
Civilian Occupation: Chiropractor / Resp. Therapist
CG Reservist: Since 1987
Unit: RU Erie

Thoughts on Summerstock: "It's a real good experience, and I think we're helping them out. And, it gives me the experience I want for possibly making Chief some day."

A day at a Summerstock station, Page 8

Always Ready: A "normal" day at a Summerstock Station

By LT Neil Hurley, G-RST-1
CG STATION NIAGARA, YOUNGSTOWN, N.Y. —
Friday July 19, 1991

0730 — The watch section completes breakfast and prepares for another day of duty. Although there were no cases last night, the hot, muggy night made it hard to sleep so some of the crew looks a little tired.

0800 — Two cars and a truck pull up to the station. About 10 people begin pulling dive gear out and begin suiting up. They're members of the County Sheriff's dive team and have arrived to make a practice dive in the lake just off the station. The station's 24-foot RHI is readied. It will provide support to the divers, primarily working to keep other boats from cutting over the dive site.

0845 — The 24-foot RHI is underway with a crew of three Coast Guardsmen and four Sheriff's with their dive gear. Other divers enter from shore a few minutes later. The day is sunny with a slight breeze. The water temperature of 50 degrees is a cold shock for the divers compared to the 90-degree air temperature.

0930 — The local Volunteer Fire department reports that a drowning victim

has been sighted four miles upriver from the Coast Guard Station. The victim's body is in the water along the United States side of the river. If it were on the other side of the river it would be up to the Canadians to recover the body.

0935 — Initial reports are that the Fire department's boat will recover the body, but it soon turns out that they'd prefer that the Coast Guard did it. There's no mission requirement that the Coast Guard does it, but someone must, so it's up to our people.



Regular BM3 Jeff Holden, left, and Summerstocker BM3 John Schempf, right, carry a stokes litter back to the RHI after assisting with a body recovery.

0945 — The 24 footer is called back to the station and a stokes litter is loaded onboard. Four of the Sheriff's agree to go along to assist.

1130 — Directed by the Fire department's rescue boat, the victim (a middle-aged man) is found and taken to a nearby boat ramp. Three police cars meet them there, and after another 45 minutes the county coroner arrives to take possession of the body. The Coast Guardsmen and Sheriff's speculate on the death by saying that he must have committed suicide by jumping off one of the bridges or into Niagara Falls. The coroner reports the man had been in the water about a week.

Summerstock Snapshot

BM2 Guy E. Stieglitz



Age: 26
Hometown: Long Island, N.Y. Now lives in Eureka, Calif.
Civilian Occupation: Student
CG Reservist:

Since 1989. Served five years active duty.

Unit: RU Station Humboldt Bay

Thoughts on Summerstock: "For a guy like me, a student, who likes the Coast Guard, I couldn't get a better deal than what I get here. I couldn't find one. Who else is going to let me come and work for the summer and have some decent responsibility. I can get some good experience."

Summerstock Snapshot

MK2 Burlen Roy Hoover



Age: 49
Hometown: Murphy, N.C.
Civilian Occupation: Diesel Mechanic / Construction
CG Reservist: Since 1981.

Served 11 years active duty. Desert Storm vet with PSU 303.

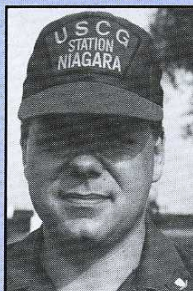
Unit: RU Chattanooga

Thoughts on Summerstock: "This is my first year and it's really enjoyable. I think it's a good program. It keeps your quals up, it keeps you going, it keeps you informed on what's going on."

Operation Summerstock: A Season of Service

Summerstock Snapshot

BM3 John W. Schempf



Age: 29
Hometown: Ukiah, Calif.
Civilian Occupation: Construction
CG Reservist: Since 1988
Unit: RU Sta. Bodega Bay

Thoughts on Summerstock: "It runs pretty well, it's a good station, a nice area. I like when we take the 24-foot RHI up river to the whirlpool... and the interaction with Canadian authorities. That's an interesting side effect."

it will be needed as the wind picks up. Just out from the station, the local sailing school's boats are in confusion as they try to return to their tender in the brisk wind. One person falls overboard amongst several near capsizings and collisions. The man overboard manages to swim back to his sailboat, but the 24 footer is standing by just in case.

1440 — It now looks like the storm will pass to the south. Most of the lake and river is deserted as people call it a day. As the wind dies down, the heat returns. It's more humid than ever. The 24 footer returns to the dock.

1530 — A woman in a state of panic runs up to the station reporting that her husband's boat is overdue. "He's never late," she says with concern. As she is walked into the station, the missing boat is seen pulling into the nearby boat ramp. Later, the husband stops by and mutters under his breath "I told her I was going to stay out later today."

1600 — With very little going on, it is decided to get the 24 footer underway for an area familiarization. The destination is the southern part of Niagara's OPAREA, which means heading upstream into the gorge of the lower Niagara River. At almost 40 knots, we make good time. Soon after entering the narrow gorge, the power of the river is apparent. At the CG station the current sweeps by at about four knots. Up here, underneath huge power plants, the current may get up to 15 knots. Further upstream are huge rapids, including the famous "Whirlpool" one mile downstream from the falls. We won't go up there unless it's a life threatening emergency. Even here there's swirling water and large areas where the water either churns upward or downward. You definitely

1330 — The 24 footer arrives back at Station Niagara. Two of the junior personnel are detailed to clean and disinfect the stokes litter. People at the station recall past experiences with body recoveries. The memories fade very slowly.

1430 — A line of thunderstorms bears down from the west. About 100 sail and pleasure boats scamper in from the lake for protection. The 24 footer gets underway expecting

hang on tight here, even at half throttle. Turning back, we speed back to the station with the river giving us an extra push. For once you get the sensation of going downhill on a body of water as we drop nearly 50 feet in elevation over the course of a mile.

1800 — We're back at the station eating evening chow. The cook's prepared meat loaf and corn on the cob. Most people are in a hurry to eat so they can escape the heat of the mess deck. The cooling breezes on the porch make it a gathering place. Folks are on the lookout for a grey squirrel that doesn't really know that it's been adopted as a station mascot.

2000 — Everyone except for the radio watch turns in. It's another hot night, so sleeping is difficult. There's just no way of knowing if tonight will be quiet or busy.

Saturday, July 20, 1991

0700 — It was a quiet night after all and today the watch is being relieved. There's a bustle of activity as the on-coming watch arrives and reliefs are conducted. As the off-going watch starts to leave, a small outboard boat drifts over to the station's seawall. An overweight man emerges from a tiny space under the boat's canvas and asks for a hand because his steering is broken. A paddle is stretched out and the boat is pulled into the seawall. One of the MK's takes a look at the steering while another Coast Guardsman fills out an inspection report. There's no telling what this day will be like....



Summerstock postmark available

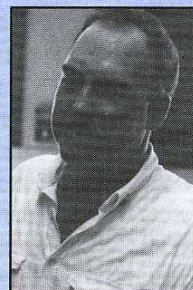
The *USS New Jersey* Chapter #90 Universal Ship Cancellation Society is offering a blue and gold printed cachet commemorating Operation Summerstock, the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve's search and rescue mission at the Sodus, N.Y. Coast Guard Station. The cover is postmarked with the Sodus Coast Guard pictorial cancel.

To receive this item, send a No. 10 self-addressed stamped envelope and \$1.25 to: USS New Jersey Chapter #90 USCS, c/o Phil Schreiber, 214 Julius Street, Iselin, NJ 08830.



Summerstock Snapshot

SS1 Bill S. Degnan



Age: 32
Hometown: Youngstown, N.Y.
Civilian Occupation: Student
CG Reservist: Since 1984.
Served 4 years

active duty. Desert Storm vet with PSU 301.

Unit: RU Niagara

Thoughts on Summerstock: "I came here from New York City, started doing Summerstock, and got attached to it."

Next issue: Summerstock at Station Plum Island

First Reserve CEA named

YNCM Forrest W. Croom discusses new position as G-R Liaison

An interview by W.B. Porter
Photos by PA2 E. Kruska, G-RS-1

On June 3, 1991, YNCM Forrest W. Croom was installed as the first Command Enlisted Advisor, Coast Guard Reserve. A Coast Guard veteran of more than 25 years, YNCM Croom has served in CG Reserve Units in Forest Park, Ill., Lake Michigan, Ind., and is currently a member of RU Dallas, Texas. He has served aboard CGC COURIER and CGC CUYAHOGA, and was assigned to the prototype Combat Skill Course with Group Chicago in 1986. Prior to his selection as CEA, he served as Freedom of Information Act Coordinator in the Office of Command, Control and Communications. Previous staff assignments included service in the Office of Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection, Merchant Marine Veterans Branch as Acting Branch Chief and Administrative Supervisor. Master Chief Croom recently discussed his goals as CEA with *The Reservist*.

Master Chief, please explain what your job title is, what it means and how it came about?

At the present time, and this could change later, we are calling this position the Command Enlisted Advisor. What it means is that I am the liaison at Headquarters for the Reserve in the field. I think the idea came about around 11 years ago when I was in the 9th District. Master Chief Ron Campbell and I discussed this and somewhere in the system the idea was lost and did not come to pass until Master Chief Thiele came aboard. He almost developed the idea but Master Chief Lloyd finally brought it into being. That is where we are today.

Why was the position established?

The position was established because

the networking of the CEA on the active side has shown that there's a darn good way of getting information to the field and getting it back. We don't have that network on the Reserve side and we need it. As splintered as we are, even within the unit, sometimes all the information does not get spread around. So when we started talking about this 11 years ago, we felt that the creation of this position would be one way of

ensuring that more information would get to the members in the field and to Headquarters.

How do you feel about your job and what are your plans as the first Reserve Liaison to the MCPO-CG?

I love it! I'm ecstatic because I was selected to be the first to hold the position.

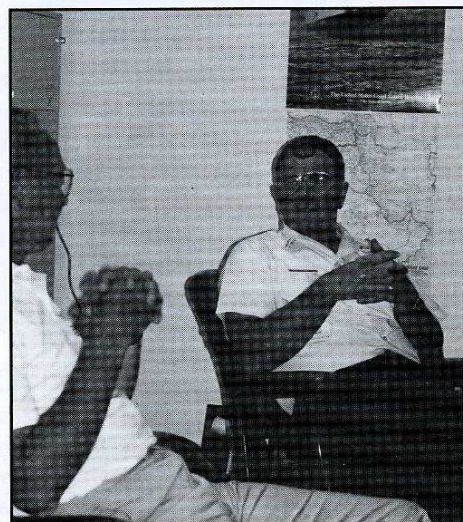
Therefore, I have been tasked with defining the job and writing the position description, which I have one year to do. After that, the Chief of Staff and G-R will cast their votes on whether or not they think the position should continue; I think the results will be positive. Then my hat will go in the ring with any other Master Chiefs who might be interested in the job. I just hope they understand the commitment they will have to make if selected. I did, and accept it freely.

What are your responsibilities?

Those are being established right now, but I feel my responsibilities, at this point, are to keep the Flag of G-R and Chief of Staff and any other interested party aware of what is going on in the field. I want to keep my fingers on the pulse out there so they will know what the field wants. Keeping Headquarters informed and the people in the field aware of issues will enhance awareness up and down the chain.

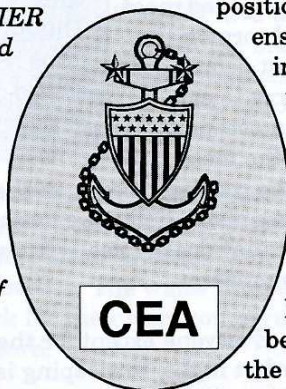
What are your goals? What are you going to try to accomplish?

Well just what I have been tasked to



MCPO-CG Allen W. Thiele (Ret.), left, stops by to visit YNCM Croom, an old friend, and to give some advice on the new CEA position.

do for the first year. One of my goals is to let people know that the position is here. That comes in the form of word, person to person visits to units, telephone calls to units that I will not be able to reach on a personal visit, newsletter concepts and by getting the word out in local plan of the day. Another goal is letting people know what is going on in the overall Reserve program, like (DOD where most of our benefits originate or where the guidelines for the benefits originate). One goal is to have a lot of input to the Senior Enlisted Advisory Council of the DOD, of which I will be a member. Another goal is to let the people in the Reserve program know that the NCOA, NERA, the Uniform Services Association, which is a new organization and the Fleet Reserve Association support the Coast Guard. I am not endorsing membership in any of these organizations but they are tremendous lobbying groups that have done a lot to get some of the benefits that we have now. There is also a new organization in the works called the Coast Guard Enlisted Association which I think is going to be a tremendous asset to the enlisted people in the Coast Guard. But the major goal is to get the information to the field and let people know that there is a source where this



information can be had, something we have not had through the Reserve program in many years.

What's your vision for the CG Reserve and for this position?

Visions have a way of changing. Presently, I envision this as being the vanguard of a network to come that is going to be very similar to the active side, a very effective network I might add. And I am very encouraged from that standpoint. I have been received very positively from the units out in the field that I have visited so far, and the cooperation I have gotten from the Deputy of G-R and the other people I have been with so far has just been outstanding.

Where will you be stationed?

At Coast Guard Headquarters. I will be working for the Flag of G-R.

Will you be traveling a lot?

Yes. That is the only way I see being able to really define what this job is all about. It is going to be unlike any of the other CEA's yet it will be similar because you are dealing with a large group of people; but in this particular case I will be dealing with the entire CG Reserve. Of course it will be impossible to touch base with every single unit within this year, but I am going to cover as many as I can so I can get a feeling of what they think this job should be for them.

What is your background in the Coast Guard and Reserve?

My background is that of a yeoman. I started out as a yeoman but I have not worked as such for the last ten years. I have been either CEA,

A message from MCPO-CG Lloyd

I am very excited about the creation of the position of CEA for reservists. I think our reservists have often been overlooked. Now, with Master Chief Croom in the position of CEA, I feel reservists will be given a lot more attention. Now we have someone full time to take notice and attack problems and work out situations that can, in the long run, help reservists and the whole program. I want reservists to know that we are there to help them; just like we are with the active duty. The Reserve is an integral part of the Coast Guard and I believe we need to pay more attention to Reserve components. A person in the position that Master Chief Croom is in will be able to take care of the people and any problems that might arise. I am very happy to have him fill the position and I support him fully.



trouble shooter or training chief; anything but a yeoman. But it has certainly broadened my concept of what the Coast Guard Reserve is all about. My first CEA job, a while ago, was as collateral duty CEA in Chicago in '84, and about that time we pulled all the JO's off the stations and put Reserve chiefs out there with active duty chiefs. Within a year we had reservists handling those stations on the weekends. So there I saw great progress as the Reserve meshed effectively with the active duty.

Who do you see as your customer?

The Coast Guard.

The enlisted Coast Guard?

The Coast Guard period. I feel I should be as accessible as any other CEA, to anyone who would wish to have contact with me. Primarily the enlisted Coast Guard, but I do not want to shut any of the officer corps out because we all learn in every position. We can learn from the lowest seaman to the highest ranking officer. You learn from everyone you come in contact with and that is

something we should never forget. It is amazing what you can learn if you keep your ears open and that is what I am going to try and do.

Do you have any message you would like to convey about your position or how you can better improve the present situation?

The message I would want to convey is that this position is for the people out there and they are what really make it or break it. If the incumbent does the job it will work for the people out there. If that individual is in it for self promotion then it's not going to work. It's a service position and that's what it is all about. If you're not willing to serve then you don't need to be here. That's my feelings and that would be my message. The position here is for service.

Anything else to add?

Yeah, help! Seriously, I would like to have the support of everybody. And don't be afraid to say yea or nay because I will listen to both sides. I may not necessarily agree, but I will certainly listen and I will give you my opinion like I expect people to give me their opinion. I am not afraid to say I don't know but I will sure try to find out.

What are your thoughts on the CG Reserve's 50th Anniversary?

Well, I will be 50 this month and it is our 50th anniversary. I guess I see that I am 50 years old and the Coast Guard Reserve is 50 years old — destiny played a part in there somewhere. 50 years to support 50 years, for the next 50 years.

YNCM Croom can be reached at:

Commandant (G-R-CEA)

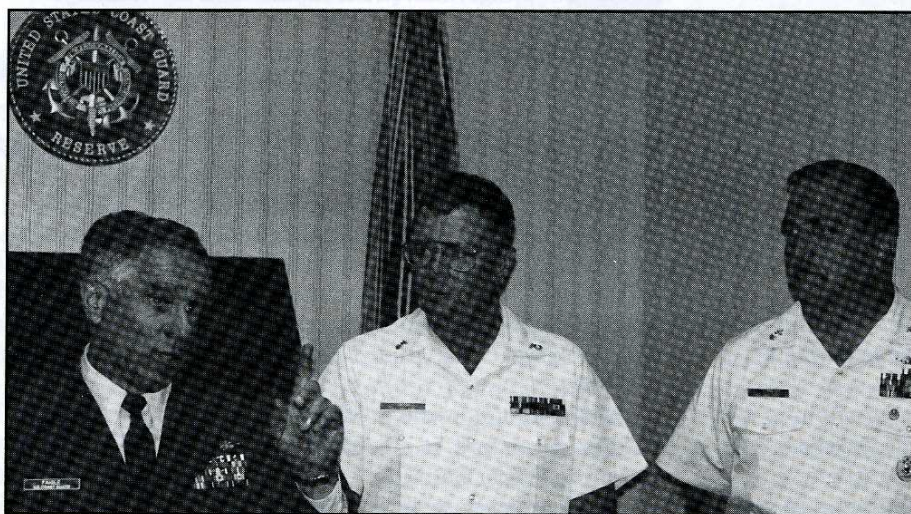
U.S.C.G. Headquarters

2100 Second Street S. W.

Washington, D.C. 20593-0001

Commercial (202) 267-6844

FTS 267-6844



RADM John Faigle, former Chief of G-R, speaks at the ceremony commissioning YNCM Croom, center, as MCPO-CG Lloyd looks on.

Desert Diary: After the Storm

Editor's note: The Persian Gulf War has been over for some time now. However, we continue to have a number of Coast Guard-related stories and items we felt our readers would find interesting. Following is a three-page sampling.

CG Reservist joins Joint Combat Camera Unit during Shield / Storm

By W. B. Porter, G-RS-1



PAC J. Michael Price

that I was available," said Price. "Although at first I was not included, I was told 'don't unpack your bags, at a later date we'll probably call you.'"

When Price, 54, a features news reporter for WIXT-TV, Channel 9 in Syracuse, N.Y., did get the call, he was assigned to the Joint Combat Camera Unit. On November 14, he was sent to the Gulf to work with PA1 Chuck Kalnbach of the Coast Guard Photo Team. Price and Kalnbach were the first Coast Guardsmen to ever be assigned to the JCCU, which is made up of personnel from all the services.

"The time over there went relatively quick because it was a lifetime experience; it was something I'll probably never be able to be involved in again," said Chief Price.

He was more than willing to serve in the Middle East because most of his family had served their country in time of war but he had never had the opportunity.

"I think of myself as a patriotic person, I come from a patriotic family from my great-grandfather, who was in the Civil War, to great uncles that fought in the Spanish-American War," said Price. "I felt like there was something missing, that I hadn't really done my share or my part."

Price, who has been in the Coast Guard for 22 years, says when this opportunity came along he wanted to go and be a part of the people that were over there. He says it was an honor to go.

According to Price, the most interesting part of being with the Joint Camera Combat Unit, was the ability to travel around.

"I went to the three Reserve port security units in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, Jabayl, Saudi Arabia, and Menoma, Bahrain. But I also went over to the northern Red Sea with the Coast Guard boarding teams that worked with the Navy,"

When the Persian Gulf crisis erupted last August, PAC J. Michael Price from Syracuse, N.Y., wanted to go to the Gulf, but he did not think he would be able to. As a public affairs specialist, he could not get a billet. However, as a Reserve Group Buffalo member he was assigned to cover pre-mobilization training at Camp Perry, Ohio.

"I could see the esprit de corps... the attitude was excellent about doing whatever they had to do. I got caught up in that and, quite frankly, let people know


said Chief Price. "I was also on a couple of guided missile cruisers, and a supply ship, which was interesting."

Price says that while it was nice to be able to bounce around from unit to unit, and see different parts of the country, it also got lonely at times because they were not attached to a specific unit. Although PAC Price and PA1 Kalnbach were part of the Joint Camera Unit, they only spent about a week in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in briefings when they first arrived. The rest of the time they spent in the field and they were on their own. While in the Gulf, Price's mission was to shoot video coverage of the war.

"I was my own field producer and narrator," said Price. "I would try to find a spot alone somewhere where I could write a script, and then I would put a lapel microphone on myself and do my own narration." Chief Price produced package pieces that ran anywhere from five to ten minutes which were sent back to Joint Combat Camera Headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

After five months in the Gulf, Price was able to produce ten or twelve package pieces, of which only three were finished; but on his return in late March, he was able to work with BMC Tom Reilly of RU New Bedford Vessels to put together a 45-minute documentary entitled *Into the Gulf*. The documentary includes outloading when the crisis first began, boarding teams as part of MIF and three PSUs, and the different aspects, jobs and duties of each. The project took many weeks, including weekends and thousands of hours, but the effort shows and it is something that the Coast Guard can be proud of when they see the final product.


"For me, it really was a once in a lifetime experience to go to the Gulf, and I really feel that I contributed something to the Coast Guard and my country," concluded Price. "It was an honor to be able to do it. I did it with a lot of pride and I am pleased and proud that I was able to participate."

Price remembers that as he boarded the plane to fly to the Gulf, a radio news reporter said to him, "Do you want to go? Does it bother you that you are going?" He replied, "No, I think I should go, I owe it to myself and my country." 

Desert Storm 10-minute video produced by D11 reservist

A 10-minute video saluting the Coast Guard's involvement in Desert Shield / Desert Storm has been produced by BM3 John Garofolo of RU Channel Islands.

"I was glad to do this because I think it was important to recognize not only the contributions of the Coast Guard, but specifically the individual sacrifices made by the men and women of the Coast Guard Reserve and their families," said Garofolo.

BM3 Garofolo, who produced the video while on SADT at CG Headquarters, is a partner in Garofolo & Thatcher Co. in Sherman Oaks, Calif., an entertainment, advertising and production company which specializes in television syndication and home video. The video is being mass produced and will be available in the near future. 



What goes around, comes around! Coast Guard Ensign returned



Photos by PA2 E. J. Kruska

Above left: Master Chief Bill Vahey, left, of PSU 301, shakes hands with MCPO-CG Jay Lloyd, right, after presenting Lloyd with a CG Ensign flown in Saudi Arabia at PSU 301's encampment at Al Jabayl. *Because the troops were on foreign soil, the American flag could not be flown, so MCPO-CG Lloyd had given Vahey and PSU 301 the Ensign at Camp Perry, Ohio, last September for the Middle East. The presentation*

shown here was at ISC, Alexandria, Va. June 7. Looking on left to right are SS3 Joel Gregorio, PS3 Dan Hennessey and ADM J. W. Kime, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard. Gregorio and Hennessey were the first to hoist the Ensign in Saudi Arabia after they built a flag pole. Above right: MCPO-CG Lloyd displays the CG Ensign flown above PSU 301's encampment.

CG port security boat first into reopened harbor in Kuwait City

Story and photo by LT Ronald L. Davis
Public Affairs Officer — PSU 301

On April 21, 1991, a Tactical Port Security Boat (TPSB) of PSU 301, stationed in Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, was the first boat in the newly reopened harbor, Mina Ash Shuwaikh in Kuwait City, Kuwait. The harbor at Kuwait City, having been closed since the Persian Gulf War because of mining and oil pollution, was to be reopened by a multinational flotilla.

Because of certain security concerns, a determination was made to send one of the 22-foot Raider boats belonging to PSU 301 and armed with .50 caliber and M60 machine guns, to lead the procession into the harbor and provide security for the festivities. On April 20, a contingent of six Coast Guard personnel, led by LCDR M.S. Zecca, Executive Officer of PSU 301, along with MKC R.S. Grinnell, BM1 M.C. Emond, PS1 R.P. Robertson, MK2 J.J. Ford, and BM3 N.D. Bradley, left base Al Jubayl for Kuwait City.

Although sporadic small arms fire had been reported along the route traversed by the group, they arrived in Kuwait City later that same day. Prior to the festivities, the boat crew, with LCDR Zecca aboard, conducted a patrol of the area. During the patrol, booby traps were discovered in two of the buoys in the harbor, and it was discovered

that a number of buoys had been deliberately moved as a tactical diversion. After the correction of these various problems, the USCG TPSB led the procession of multinational vessels into the harbor, and the festivities, attended by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, occurred without incident.



CDR D. V. Edling, CO of PSU 301, right, presents a CG Ensign to LCDR M.S. Zecca, left, to be flown from the mast of a CG TPSB during festivities to reopen the harbor in Kuwait City, Kuwait. The CG boat was the first boat into the newly liberated harbor at Kuwait City, and the CG Ensign the first flag flown. Also shown are BM3 N.D. Bradley, MK2 J.J. Ford, BM1 M.C. Emond, and MKCRL Grinnell.

"Desert Diary: After the Storm" continued on next page





Honeymoon had to wait...

YOUNGSTOWN, N.Y. — SS1 Bill Degnan tied the knot with Laura Soltys in an outdoor ceremony in this town overlooking the Niagara River on Sept. 21, 1990. But, there wasn't much time for a honeymoon. A day later, Petty Officer Degnan deployed with PSU301 to Saudi Arabia. Semper Paratus!



Wanted: Desert Storm Reservists

As a way to say thank you to all reservists who served in Operation Desert Storm, Waggoners Trucking, a nationwide trucking firm based in Montana, is interested in recruiting experienced flatbed and auto transport operators.

Interested reservists seeking employment should contact: Mr. David Bultema, Safety Director/Recruiter, The Waggoners Trucking, 5220 Midland Road, Billings, MT 59107 or call 1-800-999-9097.



We're missin' Mississippi!

The Commanding Officer of RU Gulfport, Miss., brought to *The Reservist's* attention two Mississippi CG Reservists omitted from our May/June 1991 Fac Pac '90, Desert Storm Statistics, Page 6. LCDR M.H. Ennis and YN3 J.L. Stone, both of RU Gulfport, Miss., proudly served in Desert Shield/Storm operations.



A special thank you touchdown!



Photo by Charles Telesco, USCG Auxiliary

Some 100 men and women of PSU 301 and their families were recently saluted by the 1990-91 American Football Conference Champions Buffalo Bills at a special picnic and softball game at Niagara Air Force Base, Niagara Falls, N.Y. Taking a hand off from Bills Quarterback Jim Kelly, left, is CDR Scott W. McCone, Commanding Officer, PSU 301, who was awarded a game ball for a job well done. Said Kelly, "We are glad to be a part of your team."

Found: well-traveled watch!

PSU 303(B), and three additional people, left Ramstein AFB, Germany, for Dhahran Air Base, Saudi Arabia, on March 5, 1991, on an aircraft piloted by Maj. Jeff Morrow, USAF. A passenger on the following flight of this aircraft found a watch and turned it into the pilot. In trying to track down the owner of this watch, Maj. Morrow contacted LCDR Greg Fitzpatrick of MLCLANT, who will be

receiving the watch from Maj Morrow. This poor watch has been through quite an ordeal, traveled half way around the world and back, and would like to find its owner.

If you lost your watch on this flight, or know who did, please contact LCDR Fitzpatrick (who has a perfectly good watch and really doesn't need another) at (212) 668-3370 to claim it.



A Port Securityman's prayer

Editor's note: The following poem was written by HS3 John A. Garrard of RU Salt Lake City on Feb. 14, 1991. He was deployed to Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, where his unit, PSU 2/301, was sent to serve as a replacement crew for PSU 301. The poem was submitted while he was in the Gulf by BMCN T. J. O'Neil Jr, CEA, PSU 301.

*Darkness falls, the night is clear,
On shifting sands time stands still.*

*Lone sentinels guarding their posts,
Some more distant, some are close,*

*Silent raiders cruise the night,
Semper Paratus, armed to fight.*

*Coast Guard upon the waves,
Men and women, both are brave.*

*Taken to a bleak and desolate foreign land,
Never ending bags of sand.*

*Whatever comes, let God protect,
In Him our trust, our course is set.*

*Whatever may or may not be,
We've carved our place in history.*

*Just a handful, the few elect,
Their choice fulfilled, to protect.*

*As the sun sets beyond the waves,
Remember us quietly for all we gave.*



Ribbon-cutting in D7



Photo by CWO Ted Bergamy, Reserve Training Facility Jacksonville
CAPT R.J. O'Peizo, CO, MSO Jacksonville, left, and CAPT T.R. Skaife, CO of Military Support Operations, right, cut the ribbon to officially open Jacksonville's new pavilion. The 24-by-24-foot pavilion was built by members of the Military Support Division, including many reservists, during spring of '91.

8th District



Thumbs-up for Op Spring Harvest

By PA3 Sam Goforth, RU Dallas
 LAKE TEXOMA, Texas —
 Operation Spring Harvest received a thumbs-up from D8 brass as a helo crew from Houston worked with RU Dallas and Auxiliary Units for the second year in a row. On Saturday and Sunday, June 8th and 9th, RU Dallas and the Lake Texoma CG Auxiliary Division X participated in Helo-Ops with an HH-65 helicopter from the CG Air Station Houston and a Rigid Hull Inflatable (RHI) boat from Base Galveston.

CDR Ted White piloted the helo through simulated transfers of injured persons from a boat and swimmer pickups. The 80 to 90 mile-per-hour rotor wash can also make the job something less than fun for the boat crew. Trail line grounding and handling was one of the more important parts of the training. The helicopter builds up such a strong static charge that being shocked by the ungrounded trail line could tend to ruin your whole day.

The Coast Guard 32 footer was

the exercise pickup boat for RU Dallas, while the Auxiliary provided a similar size civilian platform to work from. Even with four inches of rain in the Texomaland area, both teams still performed as if it were a clear, sunny day.

While one TV camera operator had to retreat to drier ground due to wet equipment, the rest of the media covered the event from under ponchos aboard the open boats. RADM James Loy, Commander, 8th Coast Guard District, and his staff from New Orleans gave Operation Spring Harvest a thumbs-up for a job well done.



11th District



RMSA: The wave of the future is here...on CGI

By PA2 C. Wullenjohn, USCGR

ALAMEDA, Calif. — There's a new acronym on the horizon to help Coast Guard Reservists and it's called RMSA. "Reserve Management Support Activity" is the spanking new pilot program aimed at handling Reserve administrative activities. Located on the top floor of Coast Guard Island's Building Number 10, the RMSA currently serves nine units and approximately 300 reservists in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The activity was established to perform two primary missions: 1) To alleviate the administrative burden placed on Reserve units and groups by assuming the responsibility of a number of tasks; 2) To allow reservists with administrative skills to augment with their active duty counterparts.

"We perform a variety of administrative and logistic tasks that used to be performed by dozens of yeomen and storekeepers scattered throughout the district," said CW02 John Queen, RMSA's Commanding Officer. "By centralizing these activities in a single office we're now

able to serve reservists better, offer faster service and eliminate a great deal of repetitious paperwork. In short, we've cut out the middleman to get a great deal of all sorts of routine work done."

The RMSA offers a wide range of services including issuing identification cards to reservists and their families, handling re-enlistments, solving Reserve pay problems, issuing vehicle stickers, processing unit attendance records, handling uniform replacements in kind, and much more.

"We feel this program is the wave of the future in Coast Guard Reserve administration," said Queen. "RMSA streamlines functions that used to be duplicated at several levels and enables yeomen and storekeepers to train for realistic mobilization responsibilities when they drill — not perform Reserve administrative chores."

Besides Queen, two other persons are assigned to the RMSA staff — YN2 Nan Koenig and YN3 Laura Bravo. Both are reservists serving long-term active duty assignments. Another yeoman will be added to the staff in the near future.

"Everyone on the RMSA staff was handpicked," said Queen. "Because the RMSA project is so highly visible in the Reserve program, all of us underwent competitive interviews to find, what we believe, is the best blend of talents and skills. "We all feel the Coast Guard Reserve community deserves to be served in a professional and timely manner. We realize they have full-time jobs and have many other commitments. As a result, we try to be flexible in meeting their needs and extremely customer service oriented."

Queen is excited about the program. He and his staff intensely believe in the RMSA concept of doing business.

"Establishing the RMSA was a very positive move in the right direction," said Queen. "We have a great team and I think our customers feel our determination and commitment."

The CG Island RMSA is open for business Monday through Friday of each week and on Reserve drill weekends.





First Call... to Quarters

Reserve address policy change

By LTJG Darrell Prather, G-RS-2

If you fall into either category listed below, please read this article.

- ✓ SELRES who have their CG paycheck mailed to them.
- ✓ IRR who, while on active duty, had their CG paycheck mailed to them.

The members above have two addresses stored in the CG's computer. The first is the Official Mailing Address while the second is the Check Mailing Address. Both are captured by CG Reserve Information, Exhibit 7-C-1 of the PMIS/JUMPS Manual, Volume I (Field Unit). Effective Sept. 1, 1991, a Reserve policy change will use the Official Mailing Address to send *The Reservist*, mobilization orders, Reserve orders, etc. SELRES, your check will still be sent to your Check Mailing Address. IRR's don't get checks, but your address is still stored based on the last address submitted. In the event you return to a pay status, you will be asked to fill out a CG-5230 (Payment Option Election Form).

A report will be sent to your district listing both addresses. If you experience any problems (not getting mail) or need to change where the CG sends your mail, you should use the CG Reserve Information form mentioned above to submit changes to your District Reserve office via your chain of command.



Become a member of the CG Combat Veterans Association

The Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association is a Coast Guard-wide organization made up of past and present officers and enlisted members of the United States Coast Guard/Reserve who served in, or provided direct support to combat situations recognized by an appropriate military award while serving as a member of the USCG.



The purpose of the Association is, through social association and mutual acquaintance, to further perpetuate the memory of fallen comrades, assist their widows and orphans, assist honorably or retired CG Combat Veterans, and to promote and enhance the image and posture of the Coast Guard. Started in 1985, the Association has over 900 members, and holds a reunion biannually. Membership dues are \$10 per year.

If you are interested in membership, send your name, address and other pertinent CG information and mail it along with a copy of a DD-214 (or other applicable separation document) to: Baker Herbert, CWO, Ret. — Treasurer, Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association, 6858 Lafayette Road, Medina, OH 44256 or call (216) 725-6527 for more information.



Nationwide Long-Term TEMAC/SADT/EAD

As of 8/16/91

Place	Duration	Rate/Rank	Quals	Point of Contact
HQ (G-PDP-3)	4-8 mos. (starts ASAP)	YN1-3	Admin/Luffs Pref.	YNC Door, (202) 267-6725
SUPCEN New Orleans	50 days (starts ASAP)	SS2-3	-----	ENS Everett, (504) 942-3033
CGD9 Stations	60 days (starts ASAP)	E2-4	Non-rates & E4's	ENS Heisler, (216) 522-3918
MLCPAC (V)	1 year	E7-04	Engineering background	CWO Diaz (415) 437-3125
LANT STK TM, Mobile Ala.	30 days	E5-6	SK1-2	LT Stanton, (205) 639-6601
EECEN, Wildwood, NJ.	90 days (2 positions)	ET1-3	-----	YNC Kayati, (609) 523-7212
EECEN, Wildwood, NJ.	90 days	YN2-3	PERSRU Experience	YNC Kayati, (609) 523-7212
EECEN, Wildwood, NJ.	1 year	SK3-YN3	-----	YNC Kayati, (609) 523-7212
EECN, Wildwood, NJ.	90 days	MK1	HVAT Experience	YNC Kayati, (609) 523-7212
HQ (G-NP)	180+ days (ASAP)	E5-E9	SK/YN with IRM/Finance	CDR Hudak, (202) 267-0275
R&D Center, Groton, Conn.	1 year (starts Oct. 1)	E6-04	Physical Chem. Experience	CWO Toler, (203) 441-2743
R&D Center, Groton, Conn.	1 year (starts Oct. 1)	E6-03	Electronics Background	CWO Toler, (203) 441-2743
CGD1(ole)	1 year (starts Oct. 1)	E6-04	Intel. w/SCI clear.	Ms. Austin, (202) 267-2131
CGD5 (ole)	1 year (starts Oct. 1)	E6-04	Intel. w/SCI clear.	Ms. Austin, (202) 267-2131
CGD8 (ole)	1 year (starts Oct. 1)	E6-04	Intel. w/SCI clear.	Ms. Austin, (202) 267-2131
CGD9 (ole)	1 year (starts Oct. 1)	E6-03	Intel. w/SCI clear.	Ms. Austin, (202) 267-2131
LANT AREA	1 year (starts Oct. 1)	E6-03	RM1-RMC, O2-3, Intel. w/SCI clear.	Ms. Austin, (202) 267-2131
LANT AREA	1 year (starts Oct. 1)	E5-6	Intel. w/SCI clear	Ms. Austin, (202) 267-2131
PAC AREA	6 months (starts Oct. 1)	E5-6	Intel Anal., OP Law, S clear.	Ms. Austin, (202) 267-2131
PAC AREA	6 months (starts Oct. 1)	E5-6	MLE/Fisheries, S or SCI clear.	Ms. Austin, (202) 267-2131
Intell. Coord. Ctr. Wash., DC	1 year (starts Oct. 1)	E5-6	YN or PS w/SCI clear.	Ms. Austin, (202) 267-2131
HQ (G-ENE)	1 year	E7-02	Engineering background	Mr. Caso, (202) 267-2052
RMSA Alameda, Calif.	1 year	SK1-3	Supply/Logistics	CWO Queen, (415) 437-3210

Your...

Uniform Matters

By PSC Maxine Cavanaugh
RU MSO Honolulu

Here it is, folks. The latest from the Uniform Board and G-PXM (the office that handles everything involving uniforms).

• **Air Force Shirt:** Probably the most significant change is the Air Force style short sleeve light blue shirt authorized by ALDIST 153/91. This will be an optional item until May 31, 1993. After that date it becomes a required seabag item. The standard Coast Guard short sleeve light blue shirt will be completely phased out by June 1, 1994.

• **Women's shirt:** Women are also getting new light blue shirts. Both the long and short sleeve shirts will have epaulets, pleated pockets and a man's style collar. They are projected to be available by the end of 1991. The phase out schedule is the same as for the men — required seabag item as of June 1, 1993; current standard Coast Guard shirts phased out by June 1, 1994.

• **Collar devices:** Enlisted will continue to wear collar devices the same way with the standard Coast Guard short sleeve shirt (on the collar point, see page 2-31 of Uniform Regulations). For the new shirts, men's Air Force style and new women's light blue, the collar device will be worn in the same manner as the long sleeve light blue shirt (device centered where lines one inch from front and top edges of the collar intersect).

• **Shoulder boards:** Officers will wear shoulder boards with all shirts that have epaulets (as well as the woolly pully sweater). Either the soft or enhanced shoulder boards may be worn until June 1, 1993 at which time only the new enhanced shoulder boards are authorized.

• **CPO collar devices** for both styles of windbreaker will be worn as follows: The standard shirt size collar device will be worn one inch from the front edge of the collar centered equally (from the center of the device) between the top and the bottom edges with the bottom point of the device pointing directly to the collar point.

• **Ball caps:** Rank insignia is required Oct. 1, 1991, for E-1 to E-3 the miniature cap device; E-4 through E-10 the standard collar device; and officers the standard collar device.

• **Neckties** are not authorized with any of the light blue short sleeve shirts.

• **Earrings:** Women may now wear gold, silver, or pearl earrings with any of their uniforms. (One pair at a time, thank you.) Diamond earrings are still restricted to formal wear.

• **Uniforms for commuting:** Both undress blue and working blue uniforms are now authorized for commuting by POV between home (local residence) and work. Necessary, non-social, stops such as for gas or drive-thru window use may be made. These are not "liberty" uniforms and are not authorized for commuting on public transportation.



Women's New Uniform Regs

• **Ascots:** The new women's style light blue long sleeve shirt which now has pockets does not accommodate the ascot. What to do about this will be a definite item for consideration at the next Uniform Board meeting in December. Persons having ideas or preferences

on how to fix this situation are urged to submit their recommendations to the Uniform Board. (Deadline is Oct. 25, 1991. See Uniform Regs., pages 1-22 for how to submit.) Sketches are a good way to present your ideas. Also, the more people submitting the same idea helps to impact the decision. If it is not feasible to submit written recommendations by the deadline, perhaps the CEA's will agree to tally your input and relay it to Headquarters.

• **Maternity Uniforms:** There has been some interest on the active duty side in the possible sharing of maternity uniforms no longer or not currently needed. Coast Guard women with maternity uniforms they no longer need are encouraged to contact the office of the Women's Policy Advisor (FTS 267-6942) which will hold the information and pass it to others who might be able to make use of these uniforms.



BMC Paul Antic of G-RS-2 displays the new Air Force style shirt with epaulets.

PSC Cavanaugh is on a one-year TEMAC assignment at CGHQ (G-PXM) and can be reached for questions concerning uniforms at FTS 267-6942.

Wanted

RESERVE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS (RPA's)



Wanted: motivated, career-minded officers, interested in active duty service managing the Coast Guard Reserve Program.

RPA's serve on extended active duty managing the Reserve Program. They are required to have a wide knowledge of the Coast Guard in order to carry out their duties properly. Therefore, so that they may be properly qualified, they will generally be assigned for two-thirds of the time to duties in connection with the administration of the Reserve and one-third to general Coast Guard duties.

Assignments in the Reserve program normally include Headquarters and District Offices. Rotational assignments include cutters, groups, MSO's and stations.

Any active duty officer on the ADPL or inactive duty Reserve officer (IDPL) in the grade of Lieutenant Junior Grade (must have at least two years commissioned service) or Lieutenant (with less than three years time in grade at the time the board convenes — February 18, 1992)

Application procedures are contained in the Personnel Manual, Chapter 1-B-3. After you return the card below, we will mail you additional information and provide assistance in preparing your application.

All applications should be submitted no later than January 1992 to arrive in Headquarters by 1 February 1992.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their packages well in advance of these deadlines.

I'm interested...

To obtain more information, return this card to COMMANDANT (G-RSP-1). Your response will be held in confidence and creates no obligation on your part to apply for the RPA program.

Name:

Street Address:

City/State:

Phone:

REPLY TO: Commandant (G-RSP-1)
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 Second Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20593-0001

Fourth and final in a series

RETIREMENT: *The Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan*



By LT Kim Pickens, D11(rdi)

There are many insurance and investment options available to military retirees, but the Survivor Benefit Plan offered by the U. S. government is probably the best buy around. Enacted by Congress in 1978, the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) was established to protect the survivors of a reservist who was eligible to receive retired pay at age 60. This protection plan ensures that a percentage of your monthly retired pay will be paid out to eligible survivors depending on when you elected for these benefits to start.

You need not have been receiving retired pay or even been in a retired status, so long as you had achieved 20 satisfactory years of federal service and therefore, been eligible to retire awaiting age 60. Survivors might be a spouse, former spouse, dependent children or person(s) with an insurable interest in your retired pay.

The two-tier system

Legislation in 1986 and 1989 eliminated the Social Security Offset. It was replaced by a two-tier system, and changed the cost formula for premiums. The two-tier system now in effect pays a surviving spouse 55 percent of the "base" amount of retired pay until the spouse reaches age 62. After that, the annuity decreases to 35 percent of the "base" amount for life, since your spouse would now also be eligible to receive a Social Security annuity based on your earnings.

Some survivors would receive more benefits under the old law, which included a Social Security offset, than under the new two-tier system. Therefore, the new law has a "grandfather" clause for participants who retired or were eligible for retirement by Oct. 1, 1985. Under this provision, survivors will automatically receive benefits based on the old law if that amount is higher.

The Military Survivors Benefits Improvement Act of 1989 changed the cost formula for determining premiums to six and one-half (6 1/2) percent of the "base amount" for retired pay base amounts over \$747. Premium costs for base amounts less than \$747 would be calculated under the old cost formula of two and one-half (2 1/2) percent of the first \$349 plus 10 percent of the remaining base amount for persons who entered the armed forces before March 1, 1990. Members who entered the service after this date would be subject to a straight six and one-half percent premium cost for all retired pay base amounts. Note that the dollar amounts here are for 1990.

There is no cost for SBP coverage until you reach age 60 and become eligible for retired pay. Premium costs are automatically deducted from your retired pay and are based on the amount of SBP coverage chosen as well as when elected coverage was to begin.

Most elections to participate in SBP cannot be changed after the application has been processed. Deductions from your retired pay continue as long as you have an eligible beneficiary.

Spouse-only coverage

For spouse-only coverage, the annuity (which includes periodic increases whenever retired pay is raised) is payable after your death, and as long as your surviving spouse lives. If your spouse should remarry before reaching age 55, the annuity would be discontinued. If that marriage ends, the annuity would again be payable. If your surviving spouse should remarry after age 55, the annuity would continue uninterrupted for life.

Spouse-only coverage that had been elected for a spouse during a previous marriage will automatically cover any future spouse, **unless** you choose to elect or

receive a court order to elect SBP coverage for your former spouse. In this case, your new spouse would have to be notified of your election, but his or her consent is not required. Eligibility for a new spouse under spouse-only coverage would begin after one year of marriage, with premium deductions resuming at that time. You may elect to decline coverage for a new spouse within a year of the marriage, but then only with your new spouse's written

consent if no other election was previously made.

Spouse and children coverage

For spouse and children coverage, the annuity is paid to your surviving spouse to include your children. If your spouse dies or becomes ineligible, payments are then made to any and all eligible children. Thus, if your spouse should die before you or become otherwise ineligible, your children would still be eligible for benefits as long as they remained dependents. An eligible child is any unmarried child under age 18 (22 if in school), or any incapacitated and dependent child of any age if the disability occurred before age 18 (22 while in school).

The Survivor Benefit Plan Advantages

Among the important advantages of the Survivor Benefit Plan over other insurance plans are:

1. A large part of the cost of SBP is paid by the government as part of your retiree benefits. The retiree who does not elect SBP is forfeiting a government subsidy that can be worth thousands of dollars.
2. Your SBP premiums are deducted before federal and most state taxes. A retiree who declines to participate in SBP will wind up paying 15 to 33 percent of the SBP cost in additional taxes.
3. SBP benefits are fully protected against inflation. Alternatives can only provide inflation protection at a very high cost to the retiree.

Continued on next page



RETIREMENT: The Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan



Deductions for your children's coverage stop when your children are no longer eligible. Deductions would then be based on spouse-only coverage (if, of course, there is still an eligible spouse).

If you remarry, your new spouse is automatically covered, **unless** you elect or receive a court order to elect coverage for your former spouse and/or dependent children.

Children-only coverage

You may elect to provide coverage only for your dependent children, whether you are married or not. The cost would be based on your age and the age of your youngest child at the time of election. Deductions from your retired pay would stop when your children are no longer eligible.

Any other children you acquire later will be automatically covered if child coverage was elected previously. If your originally-covered children were no longer eligible at the time you acquired your new children, deductions from your retired pay would then resume at a cost based upon your current age and the age of your youngest eligible child.

If you are married and elect children-only coverage, your spouse must be notified and agree to this election in writing. In the case of a new spouse, where children-only coverage had previously been elected, you may elect to continue children-only coverage **only** with your new spouse's written consent.

Former spouse coverage

You may elect to cover a former spouse and/or children from your former marriage at the time you are eligible for retirement. This is true whether or not you are currently married to someone else. In many states, courts can order you to provide SBP coverage as part of a divorce settlement.

By law, Commandant (G-RSM) is required to inform your current spouse of this election, but such election does not require his or her consent. If you originally elected spouse and/or children coverage and later divorce, you can elect former spouse coverage within a year after the divorce. You may also be required to make this election as part of a divorce settlement.

Insurable interest coverage

If you are not married or have any eligible dependent children, you may elect what's called "insurable interest coverage." An insurable interest is any person who has had a reasonable and lawful expectation of financial benefit from the continued life of the participating member.

Persons covered under insurable interest include: non-dependent parent or child, other relative of long standing close association, or a non-relative business associate, employee, etc. If the designation is other than brother, sister, parent, or non-dependent child, proof of financial benefit from the continuance of life of the member is required. Deductions from your retired pay for this type of

coverage are substantially higher than other types of coverage.

Your election of insurable interest coverage is generally irrevocable. Coverage under this option may later be changed **only** in order to cover a new spouse and/or children acquired after the election was made. The new election must be made within a year after acquiring your new dependents. Your new spouse would be eligible for benefits after one year of marriage, while any dependent children would be eligible for immediate coverage.

Other options

You may elect not to participate in the Survivor Benefit Plan or participate at less than the maximum base amount of your retired pay. If you do so and you are married at the time of election, Commandant (G-RSM) is required to notify your spouse and receive his or her written consent. If your spouse does not consent to your election, full spouse coverage and costs will be implemented.

Reserve-specific options

Reservists have a special set of options available in addition to the ones mentioned above. These options are most often referred to as Option A, B, and C.

Option A:

Deferring election until age 60

If you choose **Option A**, you are deferring your election until you reach age 60, at which time you will be required to make an election. If you should change your mind later on, you cannot rescind this election. At age 60, you may elect to participate or not participate in the Survivor Benefit Plan the same as any other retiree.

The main difference, however, is that from the time you defer your election until the time your new election is made at age 60, your survivors will not be covered by the plan. Deductions from your retired pay will be somewhat lower, since for a period of time your survivors were not covered. If you die before a new election can be made, however, your spouse and/or children will not receive any portion of your retired pay.

A Survivor Benefit Plan election form and SBP fact sheet are included as part of the package sent with your "20-year" letter. You have **90 days** in which to make your election. If you make no election within that time, you will be presumed to have decided not to make an election until age 60.

Option B:

Benefits beginning at 60th anniversary of birth

Option B provides for survivor benefits to begin on the 60th anniversary of your birth if you should die before age 60 or on the day after your death if you should die on or after your 60th birthday. Your premiums would be lower

Please see "RETIREMENT"
at the bottom of next page



Fit for Duty-Fit for Life



Labeling on Diet Foods

Labels on diet foods are starting to seem like the who's who of chemistry. Shopping at the store is bad enough without the pressure of reading all those labels. However, if you take the time, you will find there is a lot to be learned between those lines.

What is labeled

About 80 percent of our foods are regulated through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the other 20 percent (meats and poultry) through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Only about 55 percent of our foods come labeled because it is a voluntary system. Labeling is required only if fortification such as vitamins and minerals are added or if the product makes a special nutritional claim like "low in cholesterol and salt." Luckily many companies label their foods even if not required. When labeling, they are required to list the number of calories and the amount of carbohydrate, protein, fat, and sodium per serving. Seven vitamins and minerals are also included with their percentages of the RDA (recommended daily allowances). Optional is information on cholesterol, fatty acids, potassium, and almost 3000 additives.

How to read a label

The first ingredient listed on the ingredient list appears in the greatest quantity in the package. All ingredients are listed in descending order. If you are looking for added sugar look for corn syrup and words ending in "ose" like glucose. Over 90 pounds of these forms of sugar are consumed by Americans annually.

What labels mean

- Low Calorie:** These foods contain no more than 40 calories per serving.
- Reduced Calories:** These foods must have one-third fewer calories than the standard product and must compare the products on the label. The USDA requires



such foods to have a 25 percent reduction of calories.

—**Diet or Dietetic:** This food fits one of the first two definitions or is low in sodium.

Caution needs to be heeded with this label. The product may not be low in calories at all, just less than other products.

—**Low Fat:** Low fat foods can have no more than 10 percent fat. Low fat milk ranges from .5 to two percent milk fat by weight.

—**Lean:** When referring to meat and poultry, lean means no more than 10 percent fat by weight; extra lean, five percent; and leaner, at least 25 percent less fat than USDA standards. However, if "light" or "lean" is used on a product such as a frozen food, the only requirement is that it is labeled.

—**Enriched or Fortified:** Vitamins, minerals, or protein have been added.



Thousands of people took part in the annual Race for the Cure held June 15 in Washington, D.C. to raise funds for a local cancer center. Left to right are: Dan Miller, Louise Budelis, CDR Katie Tucker, DOT Secretary Sam Skinner and PA1 Spring de Haviland.

RETIREMENT

Continued from previous page

than with Option C, since the annuity would not start until the date of your 60th birthday or later.



Option C:

Annuity beginning immediately after death

This option provides for an annuity to begin immediately after your death whether before or after age 60. The cost of providing this option is shared by the retiree who lives beyond age 60 and the potential beneficiary. Deductions for this option, as with the other options, do not start until you reach age 60 and begin receiving retired pay.

Making best decision requires thoughtful planning

As you can see, the Survivor Benefit Plan can offer great protection for your spouse or other loved ones. But like any program, it takes some thoughtful planning on your part to ensure you make the best decision for you and your family.

Every effort has been made to ensure the information printed here is accurate. However, if you need a definitive answer to questions or problems peculiar to your own circumstances, contact YNC Harrison at (202) 267-0543 or use the Headquarters hotline number (1-800-283-USCG).

Questions about costs of various options can be answered by calling the Personnel Pay Center in Topeka at (913) 295-2657.



It's our 50th...

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY




CG Reserve history...starring Sandy Hook!



Photo submitted by LT Tom Butler, RU Manasquan Inlet


Reserve Group Sandy Hook produced a Storer Cable Communications 30-minute television program to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the CG Reserve. The program, which utilized a panel format, aired earlier this year and was hosted by LT Joe Keglövits, CO of Station Rockaway. CDR Dennis J. Gillespie and CDR William Bannister recited the Coast Guard Reserve history and described the missions of their units and the roles they play in carrying out the Coast Guard's mission. Pictured on the set after the show's taping are left to right: LT J. Keglövits, LT J. J. Marks, LCDR C. A. Spitz, CDR W. Bannister and CDR D.J. Gillespie. Storer Cable serves 57,000 homes in Monmouth County, the same area served by the Sandy Hook Group. The program was produced by LT Tom Butler.

States proclaim 50th!

Many states and cities have honored the 50th Anniversary of the CG Reserve by publishing proclamations. Included are the General Assembly and Governor of New Jersey, Governor of New York, Governor of Virginia, the Texas Senate, as well as the Mayor of the City of Marina, Calif. All the proclamations honored the Coast Guard Reserve "whose dedicated members have continued since 1941 to serve America with honor and valor in peace time and in war." 

CG Lady's poem

Editors note: This note from Lois Bouton of Rogers, Ark., also known as the Coast Guard Lady, came across our desk around Coast Guard Day, honoring the Reserve on its 50th year.

Last year the Coast Guard had
The honors it deserves.
Now let's celebrate
50 years for The Reserves!! 

U.S. Department of Transportation

Commandant (G-RS-1)
United States Coast Guard
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